



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY**

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April 19, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMSTOCK WORK GROUP

FROM: RON JAMES, State Historic Preservation Officer

SUBJECT: PROGRESS TO DATE

There has been progress on issues associated with the Comstock, and so I thought this would be a good time to give you an update. The February 18 meeting with the Virginia City Chamber of Commerce went well, and we received good coverage in the local newspaper. It is clear that the local business community appreciates the value of the archeological field school, and that they plan to be supportive.

The Lovejoy celebration planned for Dayton in June has been delayed. Senator Simon could not make the date we had been working on, but now July seems more promising.

A series of lectures and presentations are planned for this spring to promote the field school and to increase sensitivity towards the resource. These include presentations to Nevada Landmarks on 4/12, on 5/13 at the Gold Hill Hotel, and on 5/20 at the Nevada History Conference in Reno. More presentations would be useful since the field school must not serve as a reminder to pot hunters that it is time to revive their hobby. Suggestions for times and places for such presentations are welcomed.

The attached press release should serve to communicate the message through the media and will be released mid-May. As you can see, the field school will be at sites from June 9 to July 9. Walking tours of the work in progress and perhaps of the field lab will occur on weekdays at 10:00. The Division and the Comstock Historic District Commission will host the tours. We will attempt to accommodate special groups at additional times as the need arises. If you have any suggestions about the press release on the field school, please let me know as soon as possible. The National Trust has been helpful in an effort to publicize the field school in its publication. C.J. Hadley, editor of

Silver and Blue has agreed that an article on the field school might be appropriate, to appear next spring to publicize the results from the '93 program and to promote the following one. I am working on having the field school filmed this year so that footage will be available for a documentary, presumably to be produced over the coming year. This is not an easy process, however, and suggestions (and funds) are welcomed.

The other attached press release on the articles on the Comstock has been sent to the media. Rich Moreno supplied us with the media mailing list from Tourism, and that will help a great deal.

There has been an initial meeting with the BLM for their "Riches from the Earth" program, and it appears to be progressing nicely. The Comstock apparently will figure prominently in the program. It is clear that this program has the potential to dominate next year's events.

Alice's committee has continued its work towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding which will be acceptable for everyone. She is waiting for the Carson City District Office of the BLM to provide a new draft of the document. Pat Barker tells me that some progress is being made in its attempt to coordinate the data collection for a GIS for the Comstock. Steve Simanonok from the EPA tells me that his agency's surveys of Dayton and Silver City will be available in the next few months. The Gold Hill and Virginia City surveys will be available later in the year.

Bernadette's committee on PR has not met since the last memo, but as you can see, its members have been pursuing their individual assignments.

As we had discussed, it still appears that our group as a whole will not need to meet until late summer/early fall, when it will be appropriate to assess our progress and to reassess our direction. Let me know if you have suggestions, comments or questions and let me know if there are items you wish circulated to other members. Thanks again for all your help.

/rj